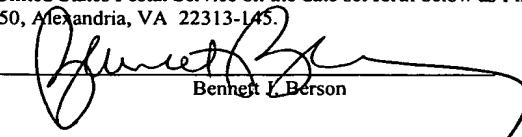


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Date of Signature and Deposit: August 1, 2003


Bennett L. Benson

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Ajit Chowdhury
Thomas R. Stolzenburg

Date: August 1, 2003

Serial No.: 09/832,078

Art Unit: 1754

Filed: 04/10/2001

Examiner: Eileen Enad Nave

For: PROCESS FOR REDUCTION OF
BIOACCESSIBILITY OF HEAVY METALS

Docket: 780202.90075

RESPONSE

Commissioner For Patents
P O Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to an Office Action mailed Feb. 4, 2003, please amend the application as follows:

In the Claims:

Please amend Claims 1, 15, 16, 19 and cancel Claim 14 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for reducing bioaccessibility of a heavy metal in metal-contaminated particulate matter, the method comprising the steps of:

treating the particulate matter with a phosphate additive, a chloride additive, and an iron additive;

wetting the additive-containing particulate matter with water;

incubating the wet, additive-containing particulate matter at a pH in the range of 0.1 to 6.0 at a temperature above ambient temperature for a time sufficient to reduce the bioaccessibility of the heavy metal in the incubated particulate matter; and

adding alkali to the incubated particulate matter.